. .TENT COOPERATION TREALY

	From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU
PCT	То:
NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION (PCT Rule 61.2)	Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office Box PCT Washington, D.C.20231 ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
Date of mailing (day/month/year)]
04 February 2000 (04.02.00)	in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/FI99/00424	Applicant's or agent's file reference 8D15PC
International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
17 May 1999 (17.05.99)	18 May 1998 (18.05.98)
Applicant LIPSANEN, Mikko et al	
in a notice effecting later election filed with the Inter	1999 (15.12.99) Inational Bureau on:
2. The election X was was not	
made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority Rule 32.2(b).	date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under
The International Bureau of ₩IPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer R. E. Stoffel

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

PCT

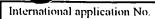
REC'D - 2 OCT 2000
WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT)	International
8D15PC			111.7/410)
International application No.	International filing date (day me		
PCT/FI99/00424	17.05.1999	18.05.1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) o	r national classification and IPC7	7	
H04M 15/00, H04Q 7/38			
Applicant			
Telefonaktiebolaget L	M Ericsson (publ	l) et al	
This international preliminary exact Authority and is transmitted to the second control of the second con	e applicant according to Article 3		
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	of 4 sheets, include	ding this cover sheet.	
been amended and are the b		of the description, claims and/or drawings which containing rectifications made before this Authoritions under the PCT).	
These annexes consist of a total of	of sheets.		
3. This report contains indications re	elating to the following items:		
I 🔀 Basis of the report			
II Priority			
III Non-establishment o	III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability		
IV Lack of unity of invo	IV Lack of unity of invention		
	V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
VI Certain documents c	VI Certain documents cited		
VII Certain defects in the	VII Certain defects in the international application		
VIII Certain observations on the international application			
Date of submission of the demand	Date	of completion of this report	
15.12.1999	20-	-09-2000	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/S		orized officer	
Patent- con registreringsverket " -0 Box 8988			
s-100 42 STOCKHOLU FALSE HER Stefan Hermanson/js Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88 Telephone No. 08-782 25 00			





PCT/FI99/00424

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

the international application as originally filed. the description. pages	the international application as originally filed. the description. pages as originally filed. pages filed with the demand. pages filed with the letter of	Basis of the report	Al Luis C.D. I	
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pages	pages filed with the demand, pages filed with the letter of filed with the letter of filed with the demand, Nos. filed with the demand, Nos. filed with the letter of Nos. filed with the letter of filed with the letter	the international	application as originally (filed.
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This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).			
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI99/00424

V.	Resoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
	citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims Claims	1-9	YE NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims Claims	1-9	YE NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims Claims	1-9	YE NO

2. Citations and explanations

The claimed invention relates to a method of providing information relating to a telephone call to a data storage system. Caller identity information is received at an exchange during a call set-up procedure and an incoming call alert message is transmitted to a called device. A Call Data Record containing at least the received caller identity information is outputted to a data storage system prior to or in direct response to a reception of a call answer message.

Document cited in the International Search Report:

D1: US 5 712 908 A
D2: US 5 396 548 A
D3: WO 95 22230 A2
D4: US 5 506 893 A

D1 relates to an apparatus and method for generating call duration billing records utilising ISUP messages in a CCS/SS7 elapsed time calculator telecommunications network. An computes elapsed time of the particular call according to the difference in the start and end times of the call, using timeassociated with the correlated call set-up stamps terminating MSUs. A record generator generates a call duration billing record for the call from the correlated MSUs to create an elapsed time billing record.

D2 discloses a communications system that detects special service information (calling party identification) during a silent interval between ringing signals on an incoming call and stores the information in a call record created for the call.

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International application No.

PCT/FI99/00424

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V

D3 relates to a method and apparatus for identifying call records.

D4 discloses a telecommunication network arrangement for providing real time access to call records.

The claimed invention differs from the prior art. D1 discloses a method of generating call duration billing records. A billing record containing information such as time of off-hook, calling number and called number is established in the local exchange of the calling subscriber (see col. 6, lines 59-61). The message utilised to begin timing a call may be an Address Complete Message, an Answer Message or an Exit Message (see col. 3, lines 62-65). D1 does however not reveal a method where a Call Data Record containing information such as caller line identity is transmitted to a data storage system prior to, or in direct response to receipt of a call answer message. This difference is considered to involve an inventive step. D2-D4 disclose the general state of the art.

In conclusion, with reference to the cited prior art, the invention as claimed in claims 1-9 is novel and is considered to involve an inventive step. The invention claimed in claims 1-9 is considered to have industrial applicability.



For receiving Office use only
International Application No.
:
International Filing Date
Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

REQUEST				
	International Filing Date			
The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.	Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"			
	Applicant's or agent's file reference (if desired) (12 characters maximum) 8D15PC			
Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION				
CALL INFORMATION OUTPUT IN A TELE	ECOMMUNICATION NETWORK			
Box No. II APPLICANT				
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a designation. The address must include postal code and name of cou address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country of residence is indicated below.)				
TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET L M ERICSSON S-126 25 Stockholm	(publ)			
Sweden	Facsimile No.			
	Teleprinter No.			
State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:			
SE	SE			
This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated	d States except the United States the States indicated in tates of America only the Supplemental Box			
Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURT	HER) INVENTOR(S)			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for a designation. The address must include postal code and name of cou address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country of residence is indicated below.) LIPSANEN, Mikko Harakkamäentie 59 B FIN-21380 Aura Finland	legal entity, full official nary. The country of the of residence if no State This person is: applicant only applicant and inventor inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)			
State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:			
FI	FI			
	d States except x the United States the States indicated in the Supplemental Box			
X Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.				
Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE: OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE				
The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act o of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities				
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for a designation. The address must include postal co	legal entity, full official Action and name of country.) +358-9-6866840			
Borenius & Co Oy Ab	Facsimile No.			
Kansakoulukuja 3 FIN-00100 Helsinki	+358-9-68668444			
Finland	Teleprinter No.			
Address for correspondence: Mark this shock how without a	o agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the			
space above is used instead to indicate a special address to w	hich correspondence should be sent.			

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)			
If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be	included in the request.		
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) NILSSON, Patrik, Kim Kellonsoittajankatu 8 B 9 FIN-20500 Turku Finland	This person is: applicant only applicant and inventor inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of nationality: FI State (that is, country)	of residence:		
This person is applicant all designated all designated States except	the United States the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) PALM, Patrik, Kjell-Johan Starrängsringen 42 S-11550 Stockholm Sweden	This person is: applicant only applicant and inventor inventor only (If this check-bax is marked, do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of nationality: SE State (that is, country)	of residence:		
This person is applicant all designated all designated States except	the United States the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address inaicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)	This person is: applicant only applicant and inventor inventor only (If this check-box is marked do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of nationality: State (that is, country)	of residence:		
	the United States the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Name and address: (Family name foilowed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address included in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)	This person is: applicant only applicant and inventor inventor only (If this check-bax is marked, do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of nationality: State (that is, country)	of residence:		
This person is applicant all designated all designated States except for the purposes of:	the United States the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation s	iheet.		

Box N	Box No.V DESIGNATION OF STATES				
The G	ollow	ing designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (÷c	-k 1ha	applicable sheet bearing that are a large
			i) (ma	rk ine	applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked);
Regio					
⊠		P ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SZ Swaziland, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT			
⊠	EA	Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan. BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT			
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\boxtimes		Saint Lucia	∇	ΑE	United Arab Emirates
			=		•
⊠		Sri Lanka	X	.44.	Republic of South Africa

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit, (Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

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LR Liberia

Sheet No. ...4...

Box No. VI PRIORITY C	LAII	Further prio	rity characteristics	in the Supplemental P
Filing date	Number	Further priority change are indicated in the Supplemental Box. Where earlier application is:		
of earlier application (day/month/year)	of earlier application	national application:	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) (18.05.98)				
18 May 1998	981105	FI		
item (3)				
of the earlier application(s	i) (only if the earlier appl	smit to the International Buication was filed with the the the receiving Office) identifi	Office which for the	
Where the earlier application is Convention for the Protection of In-	an ARIPO amplication it is	mandatary to indicate in the S	unniemaniai Pan - 1	me country party to the Parts Supplemental Box.
	NAL SEARCHING AU			
Choice of International Search (if two or more International Sea competent to carry out the interna- the Authority chosen; the two-lette	rching Authorities are sea utional search, indicate	equest to use results of ear arch has been carried ou by or atc (day/month/year)	r requested from the Intern	to that search (if an earlier national Searching Authority): Country (or regional Office)
ISA / SE		, (ab),	ramoci	Country (or regional Office)
Box No. VIII CHECK LIST	; LANGUAGE OF FIL	ING		
This international application co	:	nal application is accompan	ied by the item(s) marke	ed below:
request :	4 1. 🔀 fee calcu			
description (excluding sequence listing part)	-	signed power of attorney;	reference number, if any	· v-
claims :	a	at explaining lack of signatu	•	•
abstract :	1 5. \(\overline{\text{priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):} \) FI 981105			
drawings : 2 6. translation of international application into (language):				
sequence listing part . 7 Separate indications concerning denosited microorganism or other histogrand mesonic				
of description 8				
Total number of sheets: 1				3233.0 73
Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: 1 Language of filing of the international application: English				
Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT				
Next to each signature, indicase the na	ne of the person signing and th	e capacity in which the person sig	gris (if such c⇒acity is not oo	vious from reading the request).
	Boreniu	s & Co Oy Ab		
				•
	/ Will	, ,		•
Silvio Hjelt Patent Agent				
ratent Agent				
	For r	eceiving Office use only		
Date of actual receipt of the international application:				2. Drawings:
timely received papers or dra	3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:			received:
Date of timely receipt of the corrections under PCT Article	le İ I (2):			not received:
5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA / 6. Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid.				
Date of receipt of the record cop by the international Bureau:		mational Bureau use only.		

IPEA/ SE

PCT

CHAPTER II

DEMAND

under Article 31 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

The undersigned requests that the international application specified below be the subject of international preliminary examination according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and hereby elects all eligible States (except where otherwise indicated).

For International Preliminary Examining Authority use only				
Identification of IPEA		Date of receipt of DEMAND		
Box No. I IDENTIFICATION OF T	HE INTERNATIONAL	APPLICATION	Applicant's or agent's file reference 8D15PC	
International application No.	International filing da	te (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority date (day/month/year)	
PCT/FI99/00424	17 May 1999 (17.0	5.99)	18 May 1998 (18:05.98)	
Title of invention				
CALL INFORMATION OUTPUT IN	N A TELECOMMUNI	CATION NETWOR	RK	
Box No. II APPLICANT(S)				
Name and address: (Family name followed by The address must include p	given name; for a legal entity, i oostal code and name of countr	full official designation. y.)	Telephone No.:	
TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET L M E S-126 25 Stockholm Sweden	RICSSON (publ) et a	al ·	Facsimile No.:	
Swederi			Teleprinter No.:	
State (that is, country) of nationality:	<u> </u>	State (that is, country) of residence:	
Name and address: (Family name followed by	given name; for a legal entity,	full official designation. Th	e address must include postal code and name of country.)	
LIPSANEN, Mikko Harakkamäentie 59 B FIN-21380 Aura Finland				
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country	of residence:	
	FIN FIN			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.) NILSSON, Patrik, Kim Kellonsoittajankatu 8 B 9 FIN-20500 Turku Finland				
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country	y) of residence:	
Further applicants are indicated or	n a continuation sheet.			

Sheet No. . . .

International application No. PCT/FI99/00424

Continuation of Box No. II APPLICANT(S)	
If none of the following sub-boxes is used, th	is sheet should not be included in the demand.
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, fu	ll official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)
PALM, Patrik, Kjell-Johan Starrängsringen 42 S-115 50 Stockholm Sweden	
State (that is, country) of nationality: SE	State (that is, country) of residence: SE
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, fu	ill official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)
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State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country), of residence:
Further applicants are indicated on another continuation sheet	et.

Sheet No. 3.

International application No. PCT/FI99/00424

Box No. III AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CO	RRESPONDENCE
The following person is agent common representative	
and X has been appointed earlier and represents the applicant(s) also for international pre-	iminary examination.
is hereby appointed and any earlier appointment of (an) agent(s)/common represen	tative is hereby revoked.
is hereby appointed, specifically for the procedure before the International Prelimi the agent(s)/common representative appointed earlier.	nary Examining Authority, in addition to
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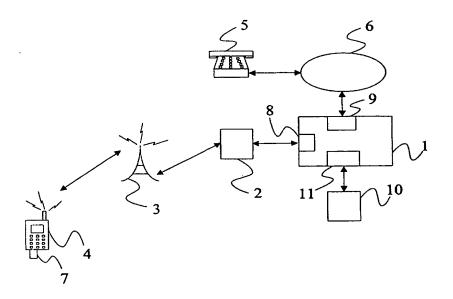
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(57) Abstract

A method of providing information relating to a telephone call, in a GSM cellular radio telephone network, to a data storage system (10). The method comprises receiving caller identity information at a Mobile Switching Centre (1) of the network during a call set-up procedure between a mobile station (4) and the MSC (1) and storing the information at least temporarily at the MSC (1). An incoming call alert message is sent by the MSC (1) to a called device (5). In the event that the called device (5) answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message is sent to the MSC (1). In response to receipt of the call answer message, at least the received and stored caller identity information is output from the MSC (1) to the data storage system (10).

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CALL INFORMATION OUTPUT IN A TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for outputting call information in a telecommunication network.

Background to the Invention

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In telecommunication networks such as fixed access networks and cellular radio telephone networks there is usually a need to record call information at at least one exchange of the network. This information may include the identity of a caller (A-number), the 15 identity of the called party (B-number), and the duration of a call. In cellular radio telephone networks, the recorded information may also include the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) code of. the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) used with the 20 calling mobile telephone, and the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) code of the calling telephone itself. Both the IMSI and IMEI codes are typically sent by a mobile telephone to the cellular network during a call set-up phase. For a given call, a record stored in an exchange is normally output to a centralised billing system of the network upon termination of the call. Historically, this record has been referred to as a "Toll Ticket" (TT) although more recently the term "Call Data Record" (CDR) has been used.

US5,506,893 describes a telecommunication network in which a CDR is output from a switching centre to an external billing system upon termination of a call.

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Summary of the Invention

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According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of providing information relating to a telecommunication call, in a telecommunication network, to a data storage system, the method comprising:

receiving caller identity information at an exchange of the network during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

sending an incoming call alert message to a called device;

prior to receiving a call answer message at the exchange, or in direct response to receipt of a call answer message, outputting from the exchange to said data storage system a Call Data Record containing at least the received caller identity information.

20 Embodiments of the present invention provide for the output of call information at a very early stage in a call, i.e. immediately following the answering of the call or during the call set-up phase. This makes possible, for example, real-time billing and fraud detection prior to or during a call.

In certain embodiments of the present invention, the telecommunication network comprises a cellular radio telephone network and the call is made from a cellular radio telephone device. The exchange from which the call information is output is then the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC). The information may include at least one of the subscriber telephone number, IMEI code, IMSI code, or B-number.

In other embodiments of the present invention, the telecommunication network comprises a fixed access

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network in which telephone device is coupled to the exchange via land lines. The information output by the exchange preferably includes the caller's telephone number (A-number) and the called number (B-number).

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According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided apparatus for providing information relating to a telecommunication call, in a telecommunication network, to a data storage system, the apparatus comprising:

first receiving means for receiving caller identity information at an exchange of the network during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and for storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

transmitting means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to a called device;

second receiving means for receiving, in the event that the called device answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message sent to the exchange; and

output means for outputting, prior to, or in response to, receipt of said call answer message, from the exchange to said data storage system, a Call Data Record containing at least the received caller identity information.

Preferably, said first and second receiving means, said transmitting means, and said output means are provided as an integral part of the network exchange. Where the network comprises a cellular radio telephone network, the exchange is a Mobile Switching Centre (MSC). The MSC may be contained within a housing which is physically spaced apart from an external billing system which is arranged to receive the Call Data Record output by the MSC. More preferably, a plurality of MSCs are

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arranged to provide the output CDRs to a common external billing system.

According to a third aspect of the present invention
there is provided a telecommunication network having a
plurality of interconnected exchanges for routing calls
in the network, and a common billing system coupled to
each of said exchanges, each exchange comprising:

first receiving means for receiving caller identity information during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and for storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

transmitting means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to a called device or to a called device via one or more further exchanges;

second receiving means for receiving, in the event that the called device answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message sent to the exchange; and

output means for outputting, prior to or in response to receipt of said call answer message, from the exchange to a data storage system, a Call Data Record containing at least the received caller identity information.

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Brief Description of the Drawings

For a better understanding of the present invention and in order to show how the same may be carried into effect reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows schematically a telecommunication network including a cellular radio telephone network;

Figure 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the method of operation of the telecommunication network of Figure 1; and

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Figure 3 illustrates an external billing system shared by a number of Mobile Switching Centres of a cellular radio telephone network.

5 Detailed Description of Embodiments

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There is shown in Figure 1 a telecommunication network comprising a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) cellular radio telephone network and a fixed access network. The former consists of a Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) 1, a set of Base Station Controllers (BSC) 2 only one of which is shown in Figure 1, and a set of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) 3 again only one of which is shown in the Figure. The MSC, BSCs, and BTSs provide functionality as defined in the relevant European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) GSM standards.

In the GSM network, mobile stations such as that indicated by reference numeral 4 communicate with a BTS 3 over the air interface. User data and signaling messages are coupled between the BTS 3 and the MSC 1 via the BSC 2. The MSC 1 acts as an exchange of the GSM network, routing calls between a mobile station 4 and a called, or calling, station.

In the example of Figure 1, the destination of a call from the mobile station 4 is a land line telephone 5 which belongs to a subscriber of a fixed access network 6. A call may be routed through several intermediate exchanges (e.g. in the case of an international call) and may also pass through several exchanges of the fixed access network, although for the sake of clarity these exchanges are not shown in Figure 1. In the same way, it will be appreciated that a call may be routed through several MSCs 1 en route from the mobile station 4 to the fixed line telephone 5.

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The mobile station 4 is provided with a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) 7 which contains a solid state memory arranged to store a unique International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) code. The mobile station 4 itself has a solid state memory arranged to store a second unique code known as an International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) code. The form of these two codes is defined in the relevant GSM standard.

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When a user of the mobile terminal 4 places a call to the fixed line telephone 5 by dialing the B-number of that telephone, at least the IMSI code and the telephone number (A-number) assigned to the mobile terminal 4 are transmitted to an input/output device 8 of the MSC 1 on a signaling channel of the GSM network (the IMEI code may or may not be sent at this stage). In response to the call request, the MSC 1 first verifies the right of the mobile terminal 4 to use the services of the GSM network on the basis of the A-number and the IMSI code (e.g. using a database of subscribers of the GSM network).

Assuming that the mobile terminal 4 receives

25 authorisation from the MSC 1 to place the call, the MSC

1 transmits an incoming call request from an

output/output device 9 to the fixed line telephone 5 via

the fixed access telephone network. A signaling

protocol such as the Signaling System 7 (SS7) is used to

30 relay the request between the MSC 1 and the various

exchanges. When the request reaches the fixed line

telephone 5, the phone rings in the normal manner.

If the call is answered at the fixed line telephone 5, then a call answer message is returned to the fixed access network 6, either by the telephone 5 or by some intermediate device, e.g. a concentrator. The call

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answer message is also transmitted back to the input/output device 9 of the MSC 1 of the GSM network, again using the SS7 signaling protocol.

5 Connected to the MSC 1 of the GSM network is a so-called input/output group device or external billing system 10. This may be a personal computer (PC), work station, data storage device or the like, which logs information concerning calls switched by the MSC 1. The information recorded by the external billing system 10 enables the operator of the GSM network to charge subscribers, trace calls, and identify calls made from "illegal" equipment. The latter is achieved using the transmitted IMSI code and also the IMEI code (if transmitted).

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When the call answer message is received by the MSC 1 from the fixed line telephone 5, the MSC 1 provides a traffic channel (i.e. voice or data) to the mobile station 4 enabling the mobile subscriber to communicate with the fixed line telephone. In addition, receipt of the call answer message causes the MSC 1 to output to the external billing system 10, via an input/output device 11, the caller's A-number, IMSI code, the called party's B-number, and the call start time. This data is in the form of a partial Charging Data Record (CDR) and is recorded by the external billing system 10. When the call is terminated by one of the parties to the call hanging-up, a call termination message is received by the MSC, and a call end time output to the input/output group device 10 to complete the partial CDR.

Figure 2 is a flow chart illustrating the method of operation of the network of Figure 1, and relates in particular to the output of the CDR to the external billing system 10.

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The external billing system is physically separate from the MSC (1) which is usually contained within a single large housing. By transferring the partial CDR, upon receipt of the call answer message from the B-subscriber, to the external billing system the network operator is able to access the record at an early stage in a call for the purposes already set out above.

The external billing system is typically shared by a number of MSCs 1 of the GSM network. This is illustrated in Figure 3.

It will be appreciated by the person of skill in the art that various modifications may be made to the above described embodiment without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, the exchange from which the CDR is output may be an exchange of a fixed access network rather than that of a cellular radio telephone network. In another modification, the partial CDR is output from the exchange to the external billing system during the call set-up phase, i.e. prior to the call answer message being received at the exchange from the B-subscriber. The CDR provided to the external billing system may include additional information such as the MSC identity, and the originating/terminating cell identity (Cell Global Identity) in the GSM network.

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Claims

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1. A method of providing information relating to a telecommunication call, in a telecommunication network, to a data storage system, the method comprising:

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receiving caller identity information at an exchange of the network during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

sending an incoming call alert message to a called device:

prior to receiving a call answer message at the exchange, or in direct response to receipt of a call answer message, outputting from the exchange to said data storage system a Call Data Record containing at least the received and stored caller identity information.

- A method according to claim 1, wherein the
 telecommunication network comprises a cellular radio telephone network and the call is made from a cellular radio telephone device.
- 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the cellular radio telephone network is a GSM network and said exchange from which the Call Data Record is output is a Mobile Switching Center, the method comprising outputting from the Mobile Switching Center at least one of the subscriber telephone number, IMEI code, or IMSI code.
 - 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network comprises a fixed access network in which telephone device is coupled to the exchange via land lines, the method comprising outputting from the exchange at least the caller's telephone number (A-number).

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims and comprising outputing said call data record to an external billing system.

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6. Apparatus for providing information relating to a telecommunication call, in a telecommunication network, to a data storage system (10), the apparatus comprising:

first receiving means (8) for receiving caller identity information at an exchange (1) of the network during a call set-up procedure between a calling device (4) and the exchange (1), and for storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange (1);

transmitting means (9) for transmitting an incoming call alert message to a called device (5);

second receiving means (9) for receiving, in the event that the called device (5) answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message sent to the exchange (1); and

output means (11) for outputting, prior to or in response to receipt of said call answer message, from the exchange (1) to said data storage system (10), a Call Data Record containing at least the received and stored caller identity information.

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- 7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first and second receiving means (8,9), said transmitting means (9), and said output means (11) are provided as an integral part of the network exchange (1), and said data storage system (10) is physically separate from the exchange (1).
- 8. Apparatus according to claim 6 or 7, the network comprising a cellular radio telephone network and said exchange (1) being a Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) of the cellular network.

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9. A telecommunication network having a plurality of interconnected exchanges for routing calls in the network, and a billing system coupled to each of said exchanges, each exchange comprising:

first receiving means (8) for receiving caller identity information during a call set-up procedure between a calling device (4) and the exchange (1), and for storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange (1);

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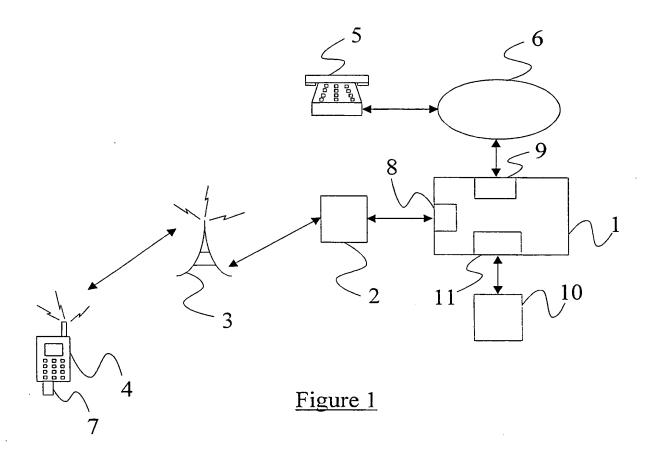
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transmitting means (9) for transmitting an incoming call alert message to a called device (5) or to a called device (5) via one or more further exchanges (1);

second receiving means (9) for receiving, in the event that the called device (5) answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message sent to the exchange (1); and

output means (11) for outputting, prior to or in response to receipt of said call answer message, from the exchange (1) to a data storage system (10), a Call Data Record containing at least the received and stored caller identity information.



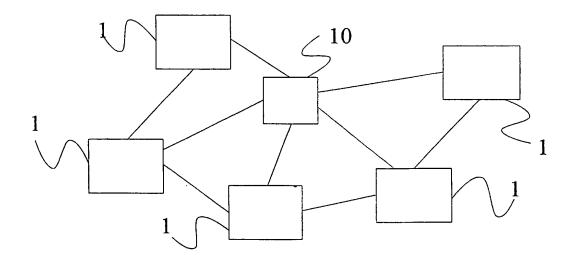


Figure 3

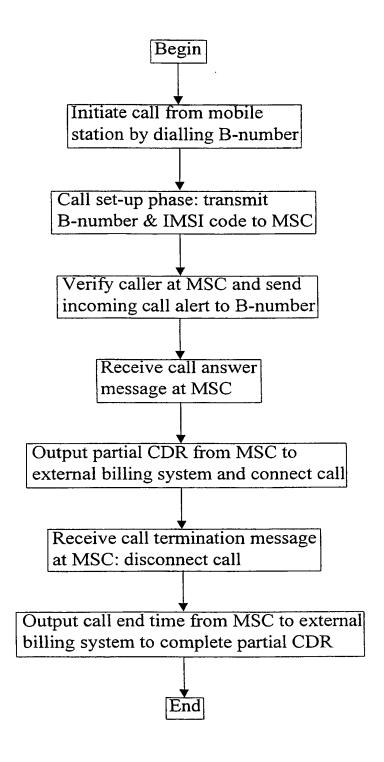


Figure 2

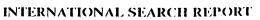
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
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Category* Citation of document, with indication, where app	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X US 5712908 A (ANTHONY J. BRINKMA 27 January 1998 (27.01.98), 1ine 57 - column 7, line 8,	column 6,	1-9
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International application No.

			Publication date	Patent family member(s)				Publication date
US	5712908	A	27/01/98	NON	E			
JS	5396548	Α	07/03/95	NON	E			
4O	9522230	A2	17/08/95	AU	679841 B	10/07/97		
				AU	1721795 A	29/08/95		
				CN	1124556 A	12/06/96		
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